

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 1923

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held in the American Museum of Natural History at 8 P. M. on December 4, 1923, President Harry B. Weiss in the chair with 14 members and five visitors present.

The following new members were elected:

Dr. Philip H. Garman, Conn. Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, Conn.

Prof. G. C. Crampton, Mass., Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass.

Mrs. Emilia V. Armstrong, 540 West 112th St., New York City.

Mr. Davis presented photographs he had taken of Mrs. Annie Trumbull Slosson in her home on November 20, 1923.

It was announced that the entomological collections of the late Edgar L. Dickerson had been presented to the American Museum through Mr. Weiss.

Mr. Nicolay gave an interesting account of the numerous collecting trips he had made during the year with various companions including Messrs. Quirsfeld, Shoemaker, Notman, Barber, and Mr. Mason of Philadelphia. He spoke of the Canarsie locality for *Elaphrus fuliginosus* being nearly ruined by building operations, of the western side of Greenwood Lake as affording in its craggy forest of pines and deciduous trees excellent collecting, of the swamp near Orangeburg station on the West Shore R. R., as a locality for *Elaphrus cicatricosus* and many weevils. Other localities visited were Rosedale, L. I., Washington, D. C., Montclair and Roselle, N. J., and the banks of the Wissahicken near Philadelphia, the most northern locality for *Sphaeroderus stenostomus*. Mr. Nicolay's remarks were illustrated by a large collection of weevils made during these trips, and by many references to other species of beetles he had found.

Mr. Leng spoke of "The Genus *Serica* and the work of Mr. R. W. Dawson therein", illustrated by his own collection as arranged by Mr. Dawson with the genitalia extracted and prepared for study. The genus included only four species when Dr. Leconte studied it between 1850 and 1856. This number was increased to 15 by Leconte and to 22 by subsequent authors; which number has again been doubled by Mr. Dawson's descriptions published in our Journal. The patient industry and skill exhibited in the plates published and in the specimens (which are deposited in the American Museum and the public museum on Staten Island) are admirable; but the identification of *Serica* species will not in future be an easy task.

Mr. Davis exhibited a living specimen of *Cychnus viduus* found November 30 near Bull's Head, Staten Island, by Mr. Edward J. Burns and him-

self and remarked that the locality was a forested area protected from fire by a bend in the swamp ditch and that the specimen shown was the first seen since about 1890. Mr. Davis also read an interesting letter from Charles Dury, now 76 years old, describing former localities for *Cychnrus* near Cincinnati; and exhibited Circular No. 68, N. J. Department of Agriculture, on the Chinese Mantis by Mr. Weiss.

MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 1923

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on December 18, 1923, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry B. Weiss in the chair with 18 members and one visitor present.

The following new members were elected:

Alex. D. MacGillivray, 603 West Michigan Ave., Urbana, Ill.

Wm. F. Lawler, Jr., 39 Lincoln Park, Newark, N. J.

Caryl Haskins, 4 Elk St., Albany, N. Y.

Mr. Jones read a paper "Psychid Discoveries and Re-discoveries", illustrated by four boxes of specimens of the moths and their larval cases, which will be published later. After reviewing the status of the 31 species that have been described, some from the larval case only, others from uniques, and pointing out that 25 were represented either in his own or the museum collection, he described the efforts he had made between September 8 and October 31 to trace the species that were inadequately known. The results were already gratifying and especially in regard to *carbonaria*, originally described from Bosque Co., Texas, definitely. He then considered the life history, pointing out that common as the bag worm is, the exact method of fertilization of the eggs is unknown. He described several studies he had made indicating a possibility of fertilization being effected after the egg mass, consisting of moist, tender, thin shelled eggs, had been deposited.

His remarks were followed with great interest and were discussed by Messrs. Weiss, Sturtevant and Lutz.

Mr. Weiss spoke of "Progress of Third Year's Work against the Gipsy Moth in New Jersey", stating that by the expenditure of \$750,000 in the three years the outlook was encouraging for an effective control in the level country. About 400 men had been employed in scouting for colonies of egg masses, the number found having diminished from 855 in the first year to 98 in the third, in creosoting the egg masses found, and in spraying and banding the trees. Thus far in the fourth year's work only 25 colonies had been found, but as some of these were in the heavily wooded Watchung Mts. where effective scouting was more difficult, he was not free from anxiety. The incidental damage to farm animals, unduly magnified and even falsified, was also at times a troublesome matter, of which Mr. Weiss gave some remarkable instances.

Mr. Angell exhibited specimens of *Cychnrus hemphilli*, recently received from Utah, and of artificial insects.

Mr. Davis referred briefly to the Morrison prize awarded to Dr. Lutz.

MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 1924

The annual meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on January 15, 1924, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry B. Weiss in the chair, with 19 members and six visitors present.

The Curator reported the use being made by Boy Scouts of the local collection.

The Nominating Committee reported their selection of the following officers and committees for 1924. There being no other nominations the Secretary, as instructed by motion duly seconded and carried, cast an affirmative ballot thereby electing:

President—Harry B. Weiss.

Vice-President—Frank E. Lutz.

Secretary—Charles W. Leng.

Treasurer—William T. Davis.

Librarian—Frank E. Watson.

Curator—A. J. Mutchler.

Executive Committee—H. G. Barber, George P. Engelhardt, G. C. Hall, A. H. Sturtevant and L. B. Woodruff.

Publication Committee—F. E. Lutz, Howard Notman, C. E. Olsen and J. D. Sherman, Jr.

The Secretary reported the death on December 23, 1923, of Mr. Edwin A. Bischoff and was instructed to prepare a resolution of regret and sympathy to be entered on the minutes and sent to Mr. Bischoff's wife and family.

WHEREAS the New York Entomological Society has learned with sorrow of the death on December twenty-third, nineteen hundred and twenty-three, of Edwin A. Bischoff, long an esteemed member of the Society and a coleopterist of repute, be it

RESOLVED that this expression of the Society's appreciation of his work in entomology and the Society's regret at his early death be entered upon the minutes, and

RESOLVED that a copy hereof be sent with the sympathy of the Society to his wife and family.

Dr. George Child, American Museum of Natural History, was elected a member of the Society.

Dr. Lutz presented under the title "Notes on the Comparative Anatomy of Bees" an elaborate paper, illustrated by many drawings and tables, in which the wing venation first and the mouth and other structural parts

second were considered for Meloponidæ and Trigonidæ; concluding with a discussion of the results from various points of view.

His remarks were followed with interest and were discussed by Dr. Sturtevant and others.

Mr. Leng read a humorous composition by Mr. Percy L. Sperr entitled "The Man of Science, Meet Him Again Please," in which some of the events recounted at a recent meeting and others were recalled.

Dr. Lutz exhibited for Mr. Bell a queen hornet found January 7, 1924, at Flushing, L. I.

NOTES ON ASILUS SERICEUS SAY (DIPTERA, ASILIDAE).

This robber fly, generally common enough, seemed to occur in more than usual numbers during the summer of 1924 and the writer was interested in observing its attacks upon insects of several orders. It is apparently one of the most voracious of its kind and is powerful enough to grasp and kill butterflies larger than itself. During the many instances this species was observed pursuing and capturing its prey, it was noted that so long as the pursued did not fly, it was apparently safe and although it might walk around on a flower or some other object in plain view of the robber fly, no attempt was made to capture it until it took wing and then it was quickly seized and killed. Sometimes the intended victim would be aware of the pursuit and would drop into the vegetation, thus escaping, but this evasion did not always work for if the robber fly was close it also would dart into the vegetation and sometimes succeed in making a capture.

The writer was chiefly interested in those instances where *Hesperidæ* were captured, and among the several species of this family of butterflies found in the grasp of *sericeus*, was one specimen of *Epargyreus tityrus* Fabricius, which made a heavy load for the fly to carry. In this case it was unable to go very far with it at a time. Even this robust and swift butterfly does not always escape.

E. L. BELL.